

Bruce Baker
301 Hilltop Road

I am a 13 year resident of Takoma Park. By profession I am a public policy analyst with experience in federal budget policy at the General Accounting Office (now known as the Government Accountability Office). I am now a free lance consultant working in public finance, community development, and cost estimating. I have been active in the community, currently serving as the Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Community Development Block Grant, and Treasurer of the Takoma Foundation. I am also now getting involved in the Old Takoma Main Street Program in the Economic Restructuring Committee. I have previously served on the City Manager Selection Committee. I am also active in Church and spend considerable amount of time trying to get two home schooled teenagers educated.

Daniel Beckley
323 Ethan Allen Ave.

My wife Liz and I bought our first home in Takoma Park in 2002. We live on Ethan Allen Ave in Ward 2. We moved to TP because we wanted to put our money where our mouth was and invest in a progressive community with an active citizenry. My background and interest is in the energy and environment nexus. I am a former Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador, where I worked with a community to start a rural electric cooperative that is still functioning six years later. My undergrad work is in business/finance and my graduate degree is in international environmental policy. I currently work for the Department of Energy in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy on state and local community issues. I look forward to learning more about this issue and working with you all.

Keith Berner
7902 Flower Ave.

I moved to Takoma Park in March '00 from DC and promptly fell in love with this progressive city and its strong sense of community. My involvement with local issues began when I joined Sensible Hospital Growth, the citizens' group that is advocating for limited growth on Washington Adventist Hospital's main campus. I also serve as president of Between the Creeks Neighborhood Association and am Democratic Chair for my precinct (13-09). In October, I began as Director of Marketing & Client Relations for Community IT Innovators, a small DC-based company that serves progressive nonprofits. My background includes myriad unconnected endeavors from international affairs to theatre, from writing and editing to analyzing US defense policy, from nonprofit management to sales. I hope never to figure out what I want to be when I grow up. I live with my wife, Marty Ittner, who is a self-employed graphic designer, plus three cats and a dog.

Kathy Berst
7206 13th Place

I have lived in Takoma Park for about 28 years with my husband and daughter. My husband works as a contractor for the World Bank in the IT department, he works with computers; our daughter, 23, attends Montgomery College and works as a Dental Assistant part time. I work as a receptionist for a non-profit lobbying grassroots organization called The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. I have worked there for 15 years. I am not into politics per say but I have learned a lot about the issues and our members concerns as I get to listen to their concerns when they initially call our switchboard and then I eventually transfer them to our issues department. It is a good cause and I'd say we have our work cut out for us.

On the fun side, I speak French as I lived in France for six years in my late teens, as I am Foreign Service brat [not really a brat]. I lived there with my parents. I am part of a French conversation group that meets on Thursdays.

I am looking forward to this group to see what ideas I can offer [if any]. Thank you.

Colleen Clay
904 Elm Avenue

I have lived in Takoma Park with my partner and two children ages 2 & 6 for a year and a half. Prior to that, I lived in California. My family recently sold our California home and bought a house at Lincoln and Hayward. I've worked in planning and community related activities for 20 years. I have taught at the University of California and run several youth education projects, my favorite of which were the Lincoln Land Institute's Urban Plan project, and a program I developed called Sailing into Science. Relevant to this committee work, I've worked on tax revenue sharing proposals for the San Francisco Bay Area, tax-increment financing, and a variety of projects that evaluated the appropriate level of government from which to provide programs and services. I used to teach about the suburbanization process from a national and local perspective. More recently, I have worked in community capacity building activities. And today, I work in HUD's policy development office on policy implications of research on Urban Affairs; Rural, Indian, Elderly and Disabled housing; and HUD's regulatory barriers (to affordable housing) project. I have some training in GIS mapping.

I'm always up for a motorcycle ride, a day sail, or a good cooking or home improvement project.

Nancy Cohen
7305 Baltimore Ave.

Resident of Takoma Park since 1971; served on the Takoma Foundation; currently on the Ethics Commission. Retired from the D.C. Superior Court having worked over 20 years in Human Resources with responsibilities for staffing and recruiting as well as employee relations. Co-chair of City Manager Search Committee.

John Conger
7611 Maple Avenue

I am a relatively new resident of Takoma Park, having moved here in the Summer of 2002, but I've lived in the DC area since 1993. Currently, I am the Condo Board President at the Takoma Phoenix (7611 Maple Ave). I am the Legislative Director for Rep. Chet Edwards from Texas (the only Texas Democrat targeted by Tom DeLay that survived his redistricting plan), and have worked on Capitol Hill for more than seven years, working at various times for three different members and for the House Committee on International Relations. Before that I was an aerospace engineer, but I accidentally got involved in politics and never looked back. On a more personal note, I grew up in New Hampshire and my life was made complete when the Boston Red Sox won the World Series.

Hank Cox
7331 Piney Branch Road

I've been a resident since 1978. My wife Cheryl and I raised two daughters here who went through the public schools. Our older daughter was graduated in the last class from the old Montgomery Blair High, and later from the Maryland Institute, College of Art in Baltimore. Our younger daughter is a senior at Marshall University in West Virginia. About 15 years ago, I presented the City Council with a plan to reconstruct the then decrepit 7300-7400 block of Piney Branch Road installing islands along the sidewalk to discourage speeding and protect pedestrians. This plan was implemented after Delegate Peter Franchot found the money for it in Annapolis. (It was just lying around, apparently.) I once had an urge to run for City Council myself, but I had a stiff drink, held my breath and after a while it passed. I do media/ communications work for the National Association of Manufacturers in D.C. Unlike Dan Robinson, I did not run against Bruce Williams, but I do resemble Bruce Williams a little, so that should count for something.

Carolyn Fischer
611 Boston Avenue

Carolyn Fischer is a Fellow at Resources for the Future, an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research institution that focuses on environmental and resource policy issues. She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Michigan and a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania. Formerly, she served as the staff economist for environmental and tax policy at the Council of Economic Advisors under President Clinton. She has been a resident of Takoma Park for seven years, as well as a performer at the Folk Festival.

Seth Grimes
7300 Willow Ave.

I live in the Philadelphia Eastern Neighborhood and work as a computing consultant and writer out of an office at Carroll and Laurel Avenues. My first involvement in Takoma Park politics was fighting the deal that would have taken two houses for fire station driveway and parking. We succeeded in gaining a reprieve for the elderly couple in one of the houses and I was hooked. I'm a founding member of the Old Town Residents Association and of Sustainable Takoma, a citizens group dedicated to open, responsive, and efficient Takoma Park government that was instrumental in prompting the creation of this committee. Most recently I was a member and co-recorder of the City Manager Selection Committee and am also trying to find time to be active in the Main Street Program.

Andy Kelemen
18 Philadelphia Ave.

Resident of Ward One. Chair of Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee.

Howard Kohn
16 Jefferson Ave.

Resident of Ward Three since 1982. Self-employed writer, author, magazine journalist. Local soccer & baseball coach. Active with Takoma Foundation, Takoma Park sports leagues, Community Center Citizens committee, Citizens Advisory Committee and other local citizen groups. Former Michigan farm boy and a founder of Human Rights Party of Michigan. Two children.

Karen Mendez
632 Kennebec Ave.

I am originally from southern California but I love it here in TP. I have lived here since 1979. I now own two properties in Takoma Park. I have two sons. One is a graduate of Blair High School. He also went to Eastern Middle school and now is at Bowie State. My other son is in the 4th grade. Both of my sons attended Rolling Terrace Elementary School. I am an employee of Montgomery County Public Schools. (I am a retired ballet dancer and I teach ballet classes in the evenings and weekends but that's another story.) I was on the City Manager Selection Committee. How exactly I got into this committee stuff is unclear. I suspect my colleague, Marc Elrich. I enjoyed the experience of my involvement with the CMSC but since I work evenings, I had many schedule conflicts.

Lawrence (Larry) Mishel
7500 Flower Avenue

I have lived in TP since 1986, living on Carroll Ave for 16 years and Flower Ave (below Carroll) for the last two years. I have a son, Eli, who is a sophomore at Blair and a daughter, Julia, who is a senior there. Both children attended the local public schools. I have not been involved in any TP politics or committees. However, I am a retired commissioner of the TP-SS Babe Ruth league and a manager of one of the Adult co-ed softball teams.

I am an economist by training (PHD from U of Wisconsin; MA from AU) with a specialty in labor economics. I did spend several years auditing and analyzing financial records of firms that were seeking wage concessions from the Autoworkers and Steelworkers (when I worked for these unions). I am now the President of an economics think tank (Economic Policy Institute) where I have worked since 1987. I have been intimately involved in the budgeting and financial aspects of EPI for many years. We are considered 'left/liberal', by the way, though I don't think that I have any particular predisposition about the matters before us. I have always wondered what I get from my TP taxes (suspecting, frankly, that somehow it was not enough relative to just being in Montgomery County), so I look forward to our inquiry. Last, I actually find budget analysis and number crunching to be enjoyable.

Bruce Moyer
6907 Westmoreland Ave.

My wife JoAnn and I moved to Takoma Park in 1980 and have lived on Philadelphia Avenue and now Westmoreland Avenue.

I helped bring cable TV to Montgomery County and Takoma Park in the early 1980s and

negotiated the City's acquisition of a municipal access channel. I also headed up an effort that pressured the County to replace its then-large, diesel Ride-On buses serving Takoma Park with smaller, more neighborhood-friendly shuttles. I also was responsible for a citizen movement that defeated a County plan to widen Philadelphia Avenue. For the last two years, I have served as president of the Westmoreland Area Community Organization (WACO) and as a neighborhood safety contact in the fledgling community policing initiative.

My wife JoAnn and I have two daughters: Ashley, a junior at Elon University in North Carolina; and Brittany, a senior at Montgomery Blair High School.

I'm self-employed as a lawyer/lobbyist with a clientele that tends to be engaged in "good government" causes. I also am an incurable Redskins fan.

Richard Payne
39 Oswego Avenue

I was born in the U.K., came to the States in 1982 – first to Massachusetts and then down here to Maryland in 1988. I've lived in Washington DC, in Baltimore in Riverdale MD and, for the past 4 years or so in Takoma Park. I live 2 doors up from the mulch pile, corn silo and Public Works on Oswego. I help to run the Ritchie Citizens Association, which meets every other month to chew over local issues. I have a daughter age 8 who attends Piney Branch Elem. and my wife hails from Jacksonville, FL. I am a biology professor at the University of Maryland. This would be my first tangle with committee work for the city.

Dan Robinson
120 Grant Avenue

I've been a resident since 1985 and my wife Sally and I have raised a family here. Our younger daughter went through the Montgomery County school system and is now a freshman at Boston University. Our older daughter went to schools in DC and lives in Brooklyn. I was recently a co-chair of the City Manager Selection Committee with Nancy Cohen. I've been a long time participant and activist here, and am well-versed in city affairs. I started Sligo Computer Services in 1986. That company has grown to eight employees and is still located in Takoma Park. I ran for City Council last year in Ward 3 against Bruce Williams, and, though I lost, have been serving on committees ever since. That'll teach me!

Mary Stover
504 Lincoln Ave.

Resident of Ward Two and Takoma Park resident since 1989. Currently self-employed consultant to community-based and public groups. Previously research director for national housing nonprofit organization. Occasional substitute teacher. Educational background in Urban Planning. Program manager for Old Town Business Association and Main Street Initiative. President of Takoma Foundation and member of City of Takoma Park Commission on Landlord and Tenant Affairs and Citizens Advisory Committee. Two children.

Christopher Victoria
1104 Merwood Drive

My name is Chris Victoria. My wife and I have lived in Takoma Park for over ten years. We purchased our home in the New Hampshire Gardens neighborhood in 1993. I have two sons, ages 6 years and 19 month. I have a B.S. in biological sciences from Florida State University. I currently work for the Anne Arundel County Office of Environmental & Cultural Resources where I work on projects related to preserving water quality and stream health. I was asked to serve on this committee by my councilperson, Doug Barry, and I look forward to working on this issue with all of you over the next few months.